

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00580 240135Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /091 W
-----094790 241241Z /53

R 230940Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9288
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0580

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: ZGDS 1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: MASS EAIR PINS VM CZ UR LA
SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LAOS THROUGH DA NANG

REF: (A) 77 VIENTIANE 0684; (B) VIENTIANE 0190

1. A RECENT VISITOR TO VIET NAM HAS TOLD US THAT WHILE HE WAS IN DA NANG IN MID-MAY HE ENCOUNTERED APPROXIMATELY 10 LAO PILOTS WHO WERE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF 10 TO 20 SOVIET HELICOPTERS. THE PILOTS WERE TO TRAIN IN THE DA NANG AREA AND THEN RETURN TO LAOS WITH THE HELICOPTERS. (COMMENT: OUR SOURCE DID NOT KNOW IF ADDITIONAL LAO PILOTS WOULD BE ARRIVING IN DA NANG FOR TRAINING, AS WOULD BE SUGGESTED BY THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT.)

2. THE VISITOR ALSO TOLD US THAT LPDR-BOUND CZECHOSLOVAKIAN SMALL ARMS WERE ARRIVING AT DA NANG DURING HIS VISIT. HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO A CZECH WHOM HE HAD MET IN
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DA NANG, THE CZECH GOVERNMENT NO LONGER WOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING THE SHIPMENT OF THE SMALL ARMS FROM DA NANG TO LAOS BUT WAS INSTEAD SENDING THE ARMS CIF DA NANG. THE CZECH INDICATED THAT PRAGUE HAD GROWN IMPATIENT OVER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF LPDR-BOUND ITEMS AFTER THEY HAD REACHED DA NANG.

3. COMMENT: REF A NOTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD AGREED TO SUPPLY SMALL ARMS TO LAOS. THIS REPORT OF THE ARRIVAL OF CZECH ARMS ALSO IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REPORT (REF B) THAT THE SOVIETS PLANNED TO RE-EQUIP THE LAO ARMY WITH SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN ORIGIN WEAPONRY.
ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

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